

THE SUBURBAN CITIZEN.

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One thing that materially helps to stiffen the iron market is the prospective heavy railway construction to be undertaken this year. The Railway Age gives a list of projects under contract for 5000 miles of new construction. There are prospective enterprises which would increase the total to 8200 miles. The greater part of the new rails will be laid down in the Southern States. The development of the interior resources of the South is at present the chief objective effort of speculative enterprise.

The fundamental idea of a course in physiology in the public schools is hygiene. The aim is to supply a basis for the more important hygienic knowledge, which not only pertains to the care and preservation of health but which gradually inculcates an intelligent respect for the wonderful structure known as the human body. Give a child a proper knowledge of structure and functions of the various organs of the body and the chances of his abusing it or ignoring the laws of health are greatly diminished, states the Chicago Record-Herald.

Will the United States have a population of 800,000,000 by the end of the twentieth century? Mr. O. P. Austin, Chief of the United States Bureau of Statistics, in an article in the Forum, answers the question in the affirmative. Mr. Austin very carefully considers the most densely populated districts and countries of the present day, and their conditions, and holds that the United States, with its enormously increasing cultivable area, its resources, its rapid progress in economics and mechanics, will be more able to sustain such a population a century hence than are the prosperous nations of Europe to sustain their population of to-day.

The report of the work of the Dead-Letter Office for the last year shows one branch of the Government service of which it is no longer feasible to centre all the business in Washington. It was found that the dispatch of dead-letter matter from the Philippine Islands to Washington not only involved great delay, but on account of the difficulties of language, prevented the handling of it to the best advantage. So a dead-letter office has been established in Manila, and business between this country and the islands is conducted in the same manner as between the United States and any other country of the Universal Postal Union. The same is true of Porto Rico. The dead-letter office first established there was abandoned, but has since been revived.

STALKED BY VULTURES.

While a Man Was Trailing a Buck, the Birds Followed the Man.

I met with a curious and not altogether pleasant experience (writes an Anglo-Indian correspondent, who has done a good deal of large and small game shooting in India) when I was one day stalking a black buck. Between me and my quarry lay a large flat field of black cotton soil bordered by a very low, straggling and thinly growing hedge of small babul trees. My only way to get a shot was to cross this, keeping the bushiest tree between me and the buck, who had not much to browse on, and was, therefore, seldom motionless. I proceeded to do the hundred yards on the flat of my stomach. This on loose, hard-baked black cotton soil was no joke. I pushed my rifle on ahead, then, wriggling past it until the muzzle was near my knee. I would pass it on in front again and so on.

Progress was slow, and I was so absorbed that I failed to observe shadows crossing and recrossing my path and circling round until I had gone some fifty yards. Then the whirring of wings attracted my ears, and almost at the same moment a vulture landed on the ground not twenty yards away. I looked up. The air was alive with these repulsive-looking birds. Then it flashed across me that I was being stalked! Doubtless these birds were attracted by my extraordinary method of procedure and mistook me for a wounded or dying man making a final effort to reach some shady spot. This was especially possible, as the experience occurred last April in a famine district where deaths by the wayside were not infrequent. By looking up I had evidently shown myself to the buck, for he was now off at full tilt. I, therefore, took pot-shot at the vulture at twenty yards, but did not allow for the sighting sufficiently, and missed him. The thought of being "waited for" by a flock of vultures while very much alive and well was, to say the least, uncanny.—Pall Mall Gazette.

Glacier and Glacier.

"Our boss is just about the most absent-minded man in the world," said one of the clerks in a large office in Carondelet street, "and his wife is continually calling him down about it, but it doesn't seem to do any good. Strings tied around his fingers, cards in his hat, and even plain memoranda right before his eyes on his desk generally get him tangled up all the worse. When we had that last cold snap a few weeks ago, his wife told him in the morning to be certain to send a man to replace a broken pane in one of their bedroom windows. He knew how mad she'd be if he forgot, so he kept repeating the word 'glacier' to himself all the way down on the street car, and as soon as he got his head in the door he shouted to the office boy: 'Johnny! write 'glacier' on my desk blotter immediately.' With that he felt safe, and it would have been all right, I dare say, if the fool kid hadn't written 'glacier' instead of 'glazier'.

"The old man thought no more of the matter until late in the afternoon, when he happened to notice the mem. on the blotter and began to scratch his head. 'Glacier! glacier!' he muttered: 'I wonder what the dickens I intended that to remind me of?' He thought a long time, then suddenly he brightened up. 'Ah! I have it now!' he exclaimed: 'glacier—a mass of ice! That means they are out of ice at the house and want a quantity. So he rushed over to the phone and ordered 200 pounds of ice to be sent up to his residence by a special wagon. That was the coldest night of the year, too. I'd like to know exactly what his wife said when he got home.'—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

The Greatest Ever.

Every year or two "the largest ship ever built" is launched. The latest Leviathan is the Celtic, which slid off the ways at Belfast on Thursday and dropped three pairs of anchors to a pandemonium of jubilation. It was certainly an inspiring occasion, and the Germans will have to try again. For a time they held the belt with the Deutschland and the Kaiser Wilhelm. der Grosse, but the Oceanic took the record away from them, and now comes the Celtic to eclipse her sister ship. The Dutchmen were respectively 662.7 and 626 feet in length, 67 and 66 feet in breadth, and 40.4 and 39 feet in depth, and their gross tonnage was 16,502 and 14,349. The dimensions of the Celtic and Oceanic are as follows: Length, 680.9 and 685; breadth, 75 and 68.3; depth, 44.1 and 44.5. The gross tonnage of the Celtic is 20,880 and of the Oceanic 17,274. While the Oceanic is a little more than four feet longer and a trifle deeper the increased breadth and the great advantage in tonnage make the new ship the world beater. She will carry a crew of 335 men and 2859 passengers, a total of 194.—New York Sun.

England's Coal Fields.

A French author, Monsieur E. Loze, has recently discussed again the question of the probable duration of the British coal fields. Assuming that the prosperity and power of Great Britain depend upon her supply of coal, he thinks that "the end of Britain" is due within the coming century. He fixes the date 1950 for the complete exhaustion of the attainable supply of coal in the British Isles. To this statement the English scientific journal, Nature, replies that Monsieur Loze has failed to take account of recent investigations proving that mining can be economically carried on at much greater depths than 2000 feet—the limit assumed by the French author—and consequently that the British coal supply with last indefinitely longer than his calculation shows.

From the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HEALTH, JANUARY 25, 1899.

The Necessity of Purity in Laundry Soaps.

BY J. M. MARTIN, M. D.

We are frequently asked why the American Journal of Health insists so strongly upon the purity of the laundry soap used in the households of its readers, the questioner in most cases implying that it makes very little difference what kind of soap is employed for such purposes. No greater mistake can be made, for there is no feature in the domestic economy fraught with greater importance than is the matter of the laundry soap used. Strange to say, the very persons who are critical and exacting in every detail of their toilet, and who would not under any circumstance allow any save the finest of soaps in their bathrooms or upon their dressing table, seem to be utterly oblivious to the uncleanness inseparable from the employment of impure laundry soaps, to say nothing of the dangers of skin diseases which are apt to follow the use of such deleterious articles. Yet the writer does not hesitate to declare—and his statement will be borne out by the experience of every physician of extended practice—that more cutaneous disorders have their origin in the use of inferior laundry soaps than are caused by the employment of low-grade toilet soaps in the dressing-room.

If it were impossible to obtain pure laundry soaps, carelessness in this regard would be excusable, but where highest grade goods of the kind are easily procurable there does not exist the slightest reason for ignoring one of the most important features in the prevention of disease in the household. For example, we would refer to the product of Weaver, Kengla & Company, of Washington, D. C., which, after most searching tests, we are prepared to commend to every reader as a pure and meritorious product. Prof. Norbert Frankel, the eminent analytical chemist, of New York City, makes the following report concerning this soap:

"After the most searching chemical tests and analyses of the laundry soap made by Weaver, Kengla & Company, I do not hesitate to pronounce it to be one of the purest articles of the kind ever brought into my laboratory. It is absolutely free from foreign substances and no dangers of disease will be incurred by its use in either laundry or bath. Scientists who realize the grave dangers which follow the wearing of articles of clothing to which clinging minute particles of irritating substances which are incorporated in laundry soaps to increase either the weight or the bulk of the same, will appreciate the truth of the statement that such pure laundry soaps as those made by Weaver, Kengla & Company furnish the housekeeper an absolute protection from the dangers of this nature, which otherwise would be incurred."

In addition to the opinion of this well-known analyst, we have received equally conclusive evidence as to the purity and worth of the goods in question, and, therefore, we do not hesitate to say that the housewife who fails to make due note of the fact that the product of Weaver, Kengla & Company offers her and her entire family a safeguard against the dangers which follow the use of laundry soap composed of impure materials and manufactured without the slightest regard to the health of the user. A better or a purer article it would be impossible to find.

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